10th August 1956]

have served as information to him. Therefore, may I request that the sum of Rs. 4 crores set apart by the Government of India may be spent wisely at least by permitting the sale of this innocuous literature on family planning in railway bookstalls and by lifting the ban that they have now imposed on its sale?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Sir, I am not sure that there is any such ban. Yesterday, I enquired from a bookstall-keeper who sells book in the railway book-stall and I was told that there was no such ban.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Is it a fact that young and unmarried women are being chosen to carry on propaganda on family planning in village parts? If so, is it having any effect on the elderly women in the rural parts?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I do not know wherefrom the hon. Member has got the information. (Laughter.) He seems to be very well informed about many matters relating to young as well as old women. (Renewed laughter.)

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : May I know when the proposed Manual will be published?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Very shortly, Sir.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. Minister be kind enough to state whether it is a fact that widows are the proper persons for propagating this family planning in the rural parts?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I am not aware of any such competence on the part of widows. My hon. Friend may enlighten me.

Purchase of a palace at Ootacamund

* 31 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to purchase any palace at Ootacamund;

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) the estimated cost of the same?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) The Government have under their consideration the question of purchasing the Arranmore Palace at Ootacamund belonging to the Maharaja of Jodhpur.

(*b*) The idea is to purchase the palace and use its main hall for holding meetings of the Legislative Assembly during the summer session and the remaining portions of the palace for housing visiting Ministers, Senior Officers of the Government and Members of Legislature.

(*c*) A report has been called for from the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (General and Buildings), in the matter.

[10th August 1956

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Is it a fact that this particular Maharani got up a very big dinner to enable the Government to find out accommodation in the particular building?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, I think dinners and parties by the Rajas and Zamindars in Ootacamund are a normal feature.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Is it a fact that the Government of India have suggested to the Government of Madras to buy this palace as it was proving to be a white elephant to the owner?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : This Government are not concerned with white elephants or black elephants. We are considering whether the palace could be made use of. That is the only idea.

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : What is the total estimated cost involved in this new deal?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : It is too soon to say. We are just finding it out and we have called for a report.

Collectors' Conference at Ootacamund

* 32 Q.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether a conference of Collectors was held in Ootacamund during May 1956;

(b) if so, the purpose thereof; and

(c) whether a copy of its proceedings will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conference was held for discussing important administrative problems in the State with special reference to National Extension Service Schemes, Local Development Works and the Second Five-Year Plan.

(c) As the conference was purely a departmental one, the Government do not consider it desirable to place a copy of its proceedings on the table of the House.

9-40 a.m. SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Was it such an important work as to be transacted only at Ootacamund? Could not that conference have been held in Madras when the Hon. Ministers would have returned after their summer stay there?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It could be held anywhere, as a matter of fact but we thought that a conference at Ootacamund might be helpful to some of the Collectors at least to have a change.